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BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

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AZ CORP COMMISSION
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IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
LITCHFIELD PARK SERVICE COMPANY,
AN ARIZONA CORPORATION, FOR A
DETERMINATION OF THE FAIR VALUE OF
ITS UTILITY PLANTS AND PROPERTY AND
FOR INCREASES IN ITS WATER AND
WASTEWATER RATES AND CHARGES FOR
UTILITY SERVICE BASED THEREON.

DOCKET NO. SW-01428A-09-0103


IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
LITCHFIELD PARK SERVICE COMPANY,
AN ARIZONA CORPORATION, FOR A
DETERMINATION OF THE FAIR VALUE OF
ITS UTILITY PLANTS AND PROPERTY AND
FOR INCREASES IN ITS WATER RATES
AND CHARGES FOR UTILITY SERVICE
BASED THEREON.

DOCKET NO. W-01427A-09-0104

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
LITCHFIELD PARK SERVICE COMPANY,
AN ARIZONA CORPORATION, FOR
AUTHORITY (1) TO ISSUE EVIDENCE OF
INDEBTEDNESS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO
EXCEED \$1,755,000 IN CONNECTION WITH
(A) THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO
RECHARGE WELL INFRASTRUCTURE
IMPROVEMENTS AND (2) TO ENCUMBER
ITS REAL PROPERTY AND PLANT AS
SECURITY FOR SUCH INDEBTEDNESS.

DOCKET NO. W-01427A-09-0116

Arizona Corporation Commission
DOCKETED
FEB 10 2010

DOCKETED BY 

1 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
2 LITCHFIELD PARK SERVICE COMPANY,
3 AN ARIZONA CORPORATION, FOR
4 AUTHORITY (1) TO ISSUE EVIDENCE OF
5 INDEBTEDNESS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO
6 EXCEED \$1,170,000 IN CONNECTION WITH
7 (A) THE CONSTRUCTION OF ONE 200 KW
8 ROOF MOUNTED SOLAR GENERATOR
9 INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS AND
10 (2) TO ENCUMBER ITS REAL PROPERTY
11 AND PLANT AS SECURITY FOR SUCH
12 INDEBTEDNESS.

DOCKET NO. W-01427A-09-0120

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15 **OPENING POST-HEARING BRIEF**
16 **OF CITY OF LITCHFIELD PARK**
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I. INTRODUCTION

This is not the "typical" rate case. The Commission last approved rates for the Litchfield Park Service Company (the "Company" or "LPSCO")¹ by Decision No. 65436, dated December 9, 2002. Since that time there have been radical changes to ownership,² operational structure,³ cost allocation,⁴ financing,⁵ size⁶ and system configuration.⁷

¹ The Company's parent, Algonquin Water Resources of America, a Delaware corporation, changed its name to Liberty Water Resources of America in 2009 and all of its regulated utility affiliates, including LPSCO, started operating under the trade name "Liberty Water" in late 2009. For clarity, this entity is referred to as "AWRA" in this Brief.

² AWRA, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Algonquin Power Income Fund, acquired the Company in February 2003. (Sorenson Rebuttal, p. 35: 18). APIF is a mutual fund or trust listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange. It is transitioning to a corporation structure under the name Algonquin Power & Utilities Corp. (Trembley, Rejoinder, p. 4: 3-20).

³ LPSCO no longer has any employees and contracts with others, particularly affiliates. Its day to day operating needs are met by Algonquin Water Services. (It is known as Liberty Water, but will be referred to herein as "AWS"). Algonquin Power Trust ("APT") provides "financial, strategic management, compliance, administrative and support services" to all of APIF affiliates including the Regulated utilities operated by AWS. Trembley, Rejoinder, p. 8: 18-24. 100% of the costs incurred by APT are allocated to APIF's affiliates. No complete listing of affiliates of APIF, APT, AWRA AWS and LPSCO was located in the record.

⁴ Where there had historically been an allocation between the Water and Sewer Division for some joint facilities and employees, Decision No. 65436, p. 17: 14-16 now the parent and affiliates allocate costs on a combination of direct billing and allocation of indirect (overhead) costs. (Trembley, Rejoinder pp. 3-4: 15-2). AWS' overhead costs (such as rent, administrative costs, depreciation of office furniture, depreciation of computers, labor, insurance, janitorial services and other non-payroll costs) not otherwise directly allocated to a specific Regulated Utility, by use of the "four factor" methodology which allocates costs by relative size of the utilities. (Trembley, Rejoinder, p. 7: 12-26). All APT costs are allocated on a two step process. The first step is to allocate between regulated and non-regulated affiliates based solely on the "number" of affiliates. The second step allocates among regulated affiliates based solely upon number of customers. Each LPSCO water customer and sewer customer are counted. As a result, a single customer receiving both water and sewer service from LPSCO is counted twice. (Trembley, Rejoinder, pp. 11-12: 14-13). During the test year LPSCO was allocated 49% of the portion of APT costs allocated to the Regulated Utilities (49% of 26.93% of APT's total costs). (Trembley, Rejoinder, Appendix 3).

⁵ Equity has increased to 82.17% of the capital structure. (Bourassa, Direct p. 1: 25-26).

⁶ The number of water and sewer customers served has almost tripled from 5,541 and 5,012 (Decision No. 65436, p. 1: 24) to 15,600 and 14,600 respectively (Application, p. 1: 22-23), while fair value rate

1 Additionally, the economy of Arizona has suffered and continues to suffer record
2 unemployment and a decimated housing market. Private and public entities are struggling to
3 stay in business. Employers have imposed hiring freezes, if not lay-offs and have frozen
4 salaries and benefits, if not cut them back. The State Legislature has cut expenses across the
5 board (except where precluded by law). LPSCO has taken none of these steps.

6 LPSCO, in its final schedules, is requesting a \$6,801,405 annual increase in
7 water revenues (a 98.8% increase) and a \$4,805,020 annual increase in sewer revenues (a
8 75.59% increase). LPSCO requests an 11.01% rate of return on its fair value rate base.
9 Granting these requests would place an undue burden on LPSCO's customers, constituting
10 rate shock and unfairly reward the Company for its decision not to seek any additional debt
11 financing between 2001 and 2010 and to wait eight years between filing for rate adjustments.⁸

12 The Commission can and should minimize these adverse impacts to the
13 ratepayers by authorizing a lower rate of return than recommended by LPSCO, Staff or RUCO
14 and through a balanced rate design that spreads the burden of the increased rates fairly among
15 its customers. The City of Litchfield Park recommends that the Commission cap the increase
16 for both systems at a return of no more than 7.5% on fair value rate base. This would equate
17 to a 7.73 return on common equity, using the Company's equity laden capital structure.
18 Utilizing the rate base and operating income figures reflected in Staff's final schedules and
19

20 bases of the water and sewer systems have increased from \$5,909,975 and \$8,691,827 (Decision No.
21 65436, p. 16: 25-27) to approximately \$37,000,000 and at least \$23,000,000.

22 ⁷ New treatment, storage and production facilities are reflected in the rate base figures, as well as a
larger service territory.

23 ⁸ A review of the Commission's Docket reveals that in Docket SW-01428A-05-0022; Staff
24 recommended – on February 10, 2006 – that LPSCO file a rate case by December 31, 2006 using a
25 test year ending June 30, 2006. Staff Report p. 2, Recommendation (A copy of which is attached
hereto as Appendix 1. The City requests the Commission take administrative notice of the Staff
Report.). The Commission never considered Staff's Recommendation as the Company withdrew its
application June 30, 2008 (18 months after the deadline Staff proposed for a rate filing) as there no
longer was a request for the Company to extend wastewater service to the area.

1 utilizing the gross revenue conversion factor of 1.6286 proposed by LPSCO⁹, a 7.5% return
2 would still result in substantial revenue increase for the water division (\$4,127,650 a 60%
3 increase) and for the sewer division (\$2,545,902 a 40% increase). The City believes this
4 represents a "reasonable return" under the circumstances of this case, taking into consideration
5 what is reasonable to the Company, its Shareholders and the ratepayers in this time of
6 unprecedented economic hardship.

7 **II. THE COMMISSION HAS PLENARY AUTHORITY OVER RATES**

8 The Commission, and thus Arizona court decisions, traditionally have focused
9 on rates that recover prudently incurred operating expenses and provide a reasonable rate of
10 return on the fair value of the utility's property devoted to public service. *US West Comm.,*
11 *Inc., v Ariz. Corp. Comm'n*, 201 Ariz. 242, 246, 578 P.2d 351, 355 (2001). However, Article
12 15, Section 3 vests the Commission with the full and exclusive power to prescribe rates,
13 including the full range of legislative discretion:

14 Neither section 3 nor section 14 [Article 15] of the constitution
15 requires the corporation commission to use fair value as the
16 *exclusive* "rate basis." Those provisions merely mandate that the
17 commission "ascertain the fair value of the property within the
18 State of every public service corporation doing business therein"
19 and "prescribe just and reasonable classifications to be used and
20 just and reasonable rates and charges....

21 * * *

22 The fair value of a public service corporation's Arizona property
23 may be important in determining and avoiding the harsh extremes
24 of the rate spectrum. Set too low, rates can result in a confiscatory
25 taking of a company's property. Set too high, they can lead to
state-sanctioned price gouging. *Thus, fair value, in conjunction*
with other information, may be used to insure that both the
corporation and the consumer are treated fairly. In this and any
other fashion that the corporation commission deems appropriate,

25 ⁹ The record is not developed sufficiently to mandate the use of one conversion factor over another.
Since LPSCO has no actual tax expense, it seems reasonable to use the lowest conversion factor
offered by the parties.

1 the fair value determination should be considered. *The*
2 *commission has broad discretion, however, to determine the*
3 *weight to be given this factor in any particular case.*"

4 *Id.* at ¶17 & 21 (*emphasis added*). The Commission is required to consider the utility's fair
5 value "in conjunction with other information" to aide it in setting rates that insure both the
6 utility and the consumers are treated fairly. The Commission is granted reasonable legislative
7 discretion in setting "fair and reasonable" rates so long as it exercises reasonable judgment
8 considering all evidence presented. *Simms v. Round Valley Light & Power Co.*, 80 Ariz. 145,
9 154, 294 P.2d 378, 384 (1956).

10 There is no required formula for this determination. *E.g.*, *United*
11 *Railways & Electric Company of Baltimore v. West*, 280 U.S. 234,
12 249-50, 251, 50 S.Ct. 123, 125, 125-26, 74 L.Ed. 390 (1930);
13 *Simms v. Round Valley Light & Power Company*, 80 Ariz. 145,
14 154, 294 P.2d 378, 384 (1956). The Commission simply considers
15 all relevant factors, including: (1) comparisons with other
16 companies having corresponding risks, (2) the attraction of
17 capital, (3) current financial and economic conditions, (4) the cost
18 of capital, (5) the risks of the enterprise, (6) the financial policy
19 and capital structure of the utility, (7) the competence of
20 management, and (8) the company's financial history. *C.F.*
21 *Phillips, Jr., The Regulation of Public Utilities* at 377 (3d ed.
22 1993), discussing *Bluefield Waterworks*, 262 U.S. 679, 43 S.Ct.
23 675, and *Smyth v. Ames*, 169 U.S. 466, 18 S.Ct. 418, 42 L.Ed. 819
24 (1898).

25 *Litchfield Park Service Company v. Arizona Corp. Comm'n*, 178 Ariz. 431, 435, 874 P.2d 988,
992. fn 3 (1994).

20 III. WHAT FACTORS JUSTIFY CAPPING LPSCO'S RETURN AT 7.5%?

21 A. COST OF CAPITAL – EXCESS EQUITY

22 The starting point for establishing a reasonable rate of return is the Company's
23 weighted cost of capital. However, it must be emphasized that the exercise, while steeped in
24 mathematical formulae, involves the exercise of much discretion – from the selection of
25 sample companies and financial instruments to the application of risk adjustments.

1 Additionally, the analysis makes no attempt to determine the actual cost incurred by the
2 Company to secure its existing equity (which would require a year to year and possibly day to
3 day evaluation of the cost of securing equity over the life of the Company), but rather attempts
4 to estimate what an investor might require today to part with its investment dollar.

5 The evidence establishes a range for the cost of equity today ranging anywhere
6 from 5.25% (Rigsby, Direct p. 37: 8) to 18.6% (Bourassa, Rebuttal p. 4: 12). The wide
7 variation in the estimates, fluctuating with the methodology and sample companies utilized,
8 emphasizes the inexact nature of estimating the cost of equity. As a result, the witnesses tend
9 to look at averages, trends or medians in positing a recommended range return and specific
10 return.

11 Both Staff and RUCO recognize that their return recommendations of 8.7% and
12 8.54%, respectively, driven by their weighted cost of capital analysis, do not fully adjust
13 downward for LPSCO's over reliance on equity (82.17%) in its capital structure. (Manrique,
14 Direct p. 35: 12-18; Rigsby, Direct p. 54: 15-18; Rigsby, Surrebuttal p. 11: 25-27). This level
15 of equity is well above the 60% equity level the Commission has generally advocated as an
16 appropriate target. *See*, Decision No. 70624, p. 14: 4-9.

17 The Commission must not blindly accept the inexact science of estimating the
18 cost of capital for the reasonable exercise of the Commission's own legislative discretion in
19 setting fair and reasonable rates. In fact, what the Commission believes to be a fair return on
20 common equity can not be the sole basis for setting rates. *Arizona Community Action Ass'n*,
21 123 Ariz. at 231, 599 P.2d at 187. *See also*, *Arizona Corp. Comm'n v. Arizona Water Co.*, 85
22 Ariz. 198, 201, 335 P.2d 412, 414 (1959) (reasonable judgment about all relevant factors
23 required). As recognized by the Commission in Decision No. 70624, the cost of capital
24 analysis can be adjusted for an unbalanced capital structure by using either (i) a 60%
25 equity/40% debt hypothetical capital structures or (ii) an appropriate Hamada adjustment. Use
of a hypothetical capital structure would bring the Company's capital structure and weighted

1 cost of capital more in line with the industry average but would not end the Commissions
2 "reasonable" rate of return analysis. Alternatively an appropriate Hamada adjustment can
3 assist in bringing the Company's Cost of Capital more in line with comparable companies.
4 RUCO and LPSCO propose neither adjustment.¹⁰ Staff made a Hamada adjustment of 80
5 basis points, but the Commission should find the 80 basis point adjustment inadequate. As
6 noted, Staff recognizes its proposed adjustment does not reflect the full downward measure to
7 the cost of equity due to the difference in LPSCO's financial risk. (Manrique, Direct p. 35: 5-
8 8). The City contends it also fails to adequately reflect the effect of the Staff's proposed rates
9 upon the customers and the other factors discussed below. See, Decision No. 70624, p. 10: 6-
10 15 and p. 14: 7-8; *Arizona Community Action Assoc. v. Arizona Corp. Comm'n*, 123 Ariz.
11 228, 231, 599 P.2d 184, 187 (1979).

12 **B. MAGNITUDE OF RATE INCREASE**

13 The level of revenue increase both in gross dollars and percentage are similar in
14 magnitude to the increases granted by the Commission to Gold Canyon Sewer Company
15 (another AWRA affiliate) by Decision No. 69664. The Commission, however, later granted
16 rehearing and reduced the approved increase, in part, by utilizing a hypothetical capital
17 structure. Decision No. 70624.

18 The Commission has an obligation to consider the impact on ratepayers when
19 setting fair and reasonable rates. *Arizona Community Action Assoc., supra*.

20 In the present case, the Company could have easily minimized the rate shock to
21 its customers by coming in earlier,¹¹ by seeking an arsenic adjustor mechanism, and/or by

22
23 ¹⁰ LPSCO's suggestion its cost of capital should reflect the risks of "small utilities doing business in
24 Arizona" (*Bourassa, Rebuttal*, p. 7: 16-21) ignores the fact LPSCO's equity is provided from a single
25 source (APIF) whose cost of capital reflects its entire portfolio of investments.

¹¹ In fact Staff had recommended a rate filing no later than December 31, 2006.

1 seeking debt financing. Yet the Company either failed to consider or summarily rejected all of
2 these options out of hand.

3 Asked why the Company did not apply for rate relief earlier, Mr. Sorenson
4 replied (Rebuttal, pp. 35-36: 23-2):

5 "I guess we could have . . . and spent hundreds of thousands of
6 dollars fighting over QWIP, used and useful, excess capacity
7 and operating expenses that don't match plant. Instead, we . . .
8 came in when we felt like we had completed the compelling
9 list of necessary projects we purchased with the system."

10 In his Rejoinder (p. 10:5-6), Mr. Sorenson continued:

11 "[W]e felt it important to finish the work before wading into the
12 treacherous water of a Commission rate case."

13 The foregoing rationale is simply insufficient to impose upon rate payers the
14 type of rate increase requested by the Company. The Commission must ameliorate the impact
15 of the Company's strategic decisions, by reducing the rate of return for the Company at this
16 time.¹²

17 **C. UNCERTAINTY REGARDING ALLOCATION OF COSTS**

18 Initially AWRA included affiliates' profits when apportioning costs to its
19 regulated utilities. This approach was soundly rejected by the Commission in Decision No.s
20 69164 at 17 -18 (involving *Black Mountain Sewer Corp.*) and 69664 at 20 - 21 (involving
21 *Gold Canyon Sewer Co.*). In Decision 69664 at 23 -24, the Commission stated:

22 "We remain concerned with the level of expenses being
23 allocated by various unregulated Algonquin affiliate
24 companies to a number of small Arizona water and wastewater
25 companies that might not require the level of sophisticated
services that are necessary for larger companies. We expect

¹² As Mr. Darnell notes, this is not an isolated instance for AWRA's Arizona utilities. The Commission has considered and is currently considering large rate increase request for every Arizona utility system owned by AWRA. (Darnell, Direct, p. 4: 1-17).

1 the Algonquin affiliate structure will continue to be scrutinized
2 in future cases.”

3 In response, AWS and APT revised its shared services model. This change
4 occurred mid- test year requiring pro forma adjustments to reflect the new allocation
5 methodology. Its new methodology is a work in progress. both direct and indirect costs to
6 LPSCO of APIF affiliates are allocated.¹³ Both Staff and RUCO found it necessary to remove
7 a significant portion of the costs initially allocated to LPSCO. Yet both the water and sewer
8 divisions are still being allocated respectively, under Staff’s recommendation, \$2,043,553 and
9 \$2,483,590 in contract service expense. (Staff Final Schedules JMM-W13 and JMM-WW12).
10 This represents 49.37% and 60.56% of the Operating Expenses of the water and sewer
11 divisions, respectively, (excluding depreciation, income and property taxes).

12 Even with the heightened scrutiny afforded affiliated transactions by Staff and
13 RUCO, their workload and the complexity and the evolving nature of the shared services
14 model used for LPSCO virtually assures some improper expenses will be passed on to
15 ratepayers. For example, it was only the turmoil created during the hearing when Mr.
16 Trembley’s referenced use of private jets owned by unregulated affiliates of APIF that resulted
17 in LPSCO removing \$16,201 from the transportation expense of both LPSCO’s water and
18 sewer divisions.¹⁴

19 Further, Liberty Water maintains no written policy governing when an item is
20 capitalized, leaving it to an ad hoc determination for each project as to whether to capitalize or
21 expense the project.

22
23
24 ¹³ See e.g., fn 8. *supra*.

25 ¹⁴ Although LPSCO promised it would also evaluate, and possibly make an adjustment for the costs
associated with quarterly meetings of the representatives of AWRA and APT at the Wigwam Resort,
no such analysis or reduction has been presented.

1 Additionally, the allocation methodology proposed for APT costs, rightly
2 rejected by Staff, would have allocated indirect overhead cost from APT between its affiliated
3 seventeen regulated utilities solely by customer count. Moreover LPSCO's water and sewer
4 accounts are counted separately (i.e., as two customers), even though the vast majority of them
5 represent a single residence. The City contends it is LPSCO's burden to create a *prima facie*
6 showing that its allocation methods are reasonable (*see*, e.g. Decision Nos. 69164 (Black
7 Mountain) and 69664 (Gold Canyon)) and that the remedy available to the Commission is not
8 limited to simply disallowing questionable expenses. The Commission should also consider
9 the inherent barriers created by complex organizational structures, and the transparency and
10 reasonableness of the allocation methodologies employed by the Company when establishing
11 an over all rate of return. The City believes such considerations in this case supports capping
12 LPSCO's overall return at 7.5%.¹⁵

13 **D. PVWRF**

14 When the Palm Valley Water Reclamation Facility ("PVWRF") was
15 constructed, at the cost of approximately 18 million dollars, it was heralded as a state of the art
16 reclamation facility. Even though the 18 million dollar plant had been in service for
17 approximately three years prior to experiencing operational issues, LPSCO had made no effort
18 to secure rates reflecting this significant rate base item. Even when Staff recommended a rate
19 filing be made no later than December 31, 2006, ¹⁶ LPSCO made no filing. When LPSCO
20 realized significant modifications, upgrades and enhancements would be needed, it made no
21 rate filing. Instead LPSCO intentionally waited until the improvements to PVWRF were
22 complete, or substantially complete, to seek a rate adjustment. (*Supra*, at pp. 6-7).

23
24 ¹⁵ The City also recommends the Commission either impose an across the board reduction in expenses
25 or, as a first step, to have LPSCO and its affiliates AWS and APT to submit a cost reduction plan with
six months.

¹⁶ See fn 8; Appendix A.

1 As a result, LPSCO is requesting customers to simultaneously shoulder both the
2 initial 18 million dollar cost of the plant, as well as the 7 million dollars in improvements in a
3 single rate proceeding. Such pancaking of plant additions installed years apart reflects an
4 insensitivity to ratepayers (especially when coupled with arsenic and water storage expansions
5 on the water side into a single rate proceeding) (Darnell, Rebuttal, pp. 8-9) as well as poor
6 long term strategic planning. Certainly shareholders should assume some portion of the risk
7 related to the cumulative impact of the need to substantially modify and enhance the PVWRF
8 shortly after it was placed in service and the Company's decision to delay seeking ratemaking
9 treatment on the base plant. Therefore, whether or not all or a portion of the 3.286 million
10 dollar rate base adjustment recommended by RUCO (RUCO Final Schedule 3, Wastewater
11 Division p. 4 of 4) is made by the Commission, the Company's handling of the PVWRF
12 constitutes another justification for capping the return on rate base at no more than 7.5%.

13 **IV. RATE DESIGN**

14 The City of Litchfield Park is proud to be a small, green oasis in the desert. The
15 City actively implements water conservation practices while maintaining its parks, common
16 areas and other recreational features to promote the environment supported by its Community.
17 The record does not support penalizing the City or its residents for maintaining the
18 environment that attracted residents to the area in the first place. Yet the rate designs
19 proposed by Staff and RUCO would penalize the City and its residents for using more water
20 than the "average" LPSCO customer.

21 The LPSCO was formed to provide water and sewer service primarily within the
22 City. The basic backbone system needed to serve the current demand within the City has
23 been in place long before AWRA acquired the system. The City recognizes that
24 enhancements to the sewer plant, the airline reservoir and arsenic treatment benefit all
25 consumers and therefore does not object to paying a reasonable return (up to 25%) on the
capital investment made by LPSCO. It is concerned that because it and its residents

1 predominantly utilize one inch meters and consume more water than the average customer
2 that the City and its residents will pay substantially greater proportion of the rate increase than
3 is fair and reasonable due to the rate design that is proposed by both RUCO and Staff.

4 The Company and the City jointly proposed a rate design that they believe
5 appropriately reflects the cost of providing service, provides rate stability, encourages
6 conservation and promotes gradualism. (Exhibits LP-4, LP-5, A-20-22).


7 The City asks the Commission to accept the joint rate design. The City also
8 requests the Commission consider phasing in the rate increase over a ten month period. The
9 first will most likely be implemented at the beginning of this summer (May) and should be
10 6% of the approved rate. The City recommends the second phase be implements
11 approximately five months thereafter preferable in October in November with 20% plus all
12 carry costs. The third or final phase would be implemented in March with the final 20% plus
13 all accrued carry costs. The City believes this phasing plan coupled with the cap of a 7.5%
14 return and the joint rate design constitutes fair and reasonable rates, based upon the facts and
15 circumstances presented in this case.

16 **V. CONCLUSION**

17 It is the magnitude of the rate increase and the complexity of LPSCO's
18 organizational structure that makes this rate proceeding extremely difficult. The City has no
19 complaints with the level of service provided by LPSCO. It is concerned, that as a green
20 community with a static growth rate, it and its residents may be penalized an unwary effort to
21 "help the little guy" and to promote conservation. The City believes that by capping the rate
22 of return allowed LPSCO at 7.5%, adopting the rate design jointly proposed by the City and
23 the Company and phasing in rates over a relatively short period of time, the adverse impacts of
24 the rate increase can be minimized and fair and just rates set. The City thanks the Commission
25 for its consideration and efforts.

1 DATED this 10th day of February, 2010.

2 CURTIS, GOODWIN, SULLIVAN,
3 UDALL & SCHWAB, P.L.C.

4
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APPENDIX A

ORIGINAL

MEMORANDUM

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2006 FEB 10 P 1:53

AZ CORP COMMISSION
DOCUMENT CONTROL

TO: Docket Control Center

FROM: Ernest G. Johnson
for Director
Utilities Division

DATE: February 10, 2006

RE: LITCHFIELD PARK SERVICE COMPANY - APPLICATION FOR AN
EXTENSION OF ITS CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY
(DOCKET NO. SW-01428A-05-0022)

Attached is the Staff Report for the above referenced application. Staff recommends approval with requirements for certain compliance.

EGJ:LAJ:lm

Originator: Linda A. Jaress

Service List for: Litchfield Park Service Company
Docket No. SW-01428A-05-0022

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STAFF REPORT
UTILITIES DIVISION
ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

LITCHFIELD PARK SERVICE COMPANY

DOCKET NO. SW-01428A-05-0022

APPLICATION FOR AN EXTENSION OF ITS
CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY

FEBRUARY 2006

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Litchfield Park Service Company filed an application to extend its CC&N to provide utility wastewater service to an area the size of approximately three and one-half sections of land in the vicinity of Camelback Road and Perryville Road in the West Valley in Maricopa County. At build out, approximately 10,000 units are planned for development in the proposed extension area. Approximately 3,000 homes will be developed initially.

LPSCO is planning the addition of a lift station, an expansion of the wastewater treatment plant from 4.1 to 8.2 million gallons per day capacity, and construction of a \$4.9 million, six-mile interconnection line to interconnect the proposed service territory with the treatment plant. The lift station, the interconnection line and the new wastewater treatment plant will be financed through a Master Utility Agreement ("MUA") whereby the developers in the extension area purchase "Development Shares" in the parent of LPSCO, Algonquin Water Resources of America Inc. ("Algonquin"). Algonquin would then invest the funds from the Development Shares into LPSCO as paid-in capital.

The return on equity and rate of return on rate base adopted in a settlement agreement and by Decision No. 65436 in LPSCO's last rate case were 9.5 percent and 8.5 percent, respectively. The most recent annual report filed by LPSCO at the Commission indicates an earned return on equity of 11.51 percent and an estimated return on rate base of 11.47.

Staff concludes that LPSCO is a fit and proper entity to provide service in the proposed extension area and that it is in the public interest for the Commission to approve this application and adopt certain requirements of the Company.

Staff recommends that the Commission require LPSCO to file the following as compliance items in this docket and by the recommended date:

1. A copy of the Franchise for the proposed service territory within 365 days of the date of the decision in this case.
2. The Master Utility Agreement as amended to reflect the smaller requested area within 365 days of the date of the decision in this case.
3. Copies of the required Aquifer Protection Permit and Section 208 Plan amendments within 365 days of the date of the decision in this case.
4. By December 31, 2006, file a rate case using a test year ending June 30, 2006.
5. File a plan to increase the Company's consolidated equity to 40 percent of the total capital.

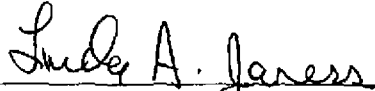
Staff also recommends that the Commission determine, and LPSCO agrees, that all net Additional Paid-in-Capital paid by Algonquin to LPSCO related to the MUA should be treated as if it were Advances in Aid of Construction for ratemaking purposes.

Staff further recommends that the Company be ordered to charge its existing rates and charges to customers in the extension area until such time as the Commission changes those rates.

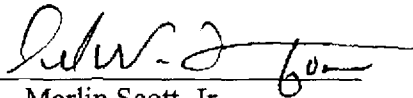
Finally, Staff recommends that the Company be prohibited from distributing more than 25 percent of each year's earnings if and when equity falls below 30 percent of total capital.

STAFF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

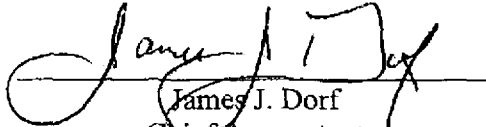
The Staff Report for Litchfield Park Service Company, Docket No. SW-01428A-05-0022, was prepared by the Staff members listed below. Linda Jaress performed the review and analysis of the Company's application, Marlin Scott, Jr. performed the engineering analysis and Jim Dorf performed the financial analysis.



Linda A. Jaress
Executive Consultant III



Marlin Scott, Jr.
Utilities Engineer



James J. Dorf
Chief Accountant

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Introduction

On January 12, 2005, Litchfield Park Service Company ("LPSCO" or "the Company") filed an application for approval of an extension of its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity to provide wastewater service to portions of Maricopa. On September 2, 2005, the Company amended its application to exclude certain parcels from the application. The proposed extension covers an area the size of approximately three and one-half sections of land in the vicinity of Camelback Road and Perryville Road in the West Valley. At build out, Approximately 10,000 units are planned for development in the proposed extension area. Approximately 3,000 homes will be developed initially. See Exhibit 1 for a map and legal description of the extension area.

LPSCO's application included the requests for service from developers in the proposed service area. There are currently no delinquent compliance items for Litchfield Park Service Company with the Utilities Division's Compliance Section and no unresolved complaints with the Consumer Services Section.

The Wastewater System

According to the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality ("ADEQ") and the Maricopa County Environmental Services Department, LPSCO's wastewater treatment facilities are in compliance with ADEQ regulations. The Company's wastewater system is comprised of a 4.1 million gallon per day ("MGD") activated sludge wastewater treatment plant, three lift stations and 255.8 miles of collection mains. LPSCO is planning the addition of a lift station, an expansion of the wastewater treatment plant from 4.1 to 8.2 million gallons per day capacity, and construction of a \$4.9 million, six-mile interconnection line to interconnect the proposed service territory with the treatment plant. For further description and analysis, see the Staff Engineer's Report attached as Exhibit 2.

Financing and Capital Structure

The lift station, the interconnection line and the new wastewater treatment plant will be financed through a Master Utility Agreement ("MUA") whereby the developers in the extension area purchase "Development Shares" in the parent of LPSCO, Algonquin Water Resources of America Inc. ("Algonquin"). Algonquin would then invest the funds from the Development Shares into LPSCO as paid-in capital. Attached, as Exhibit 3, is Staff's Finance and Regulatory Analysis Report which further describes these transactions.

The Report also points out that due to high growth, LPSCO's net income and LPSCO's low equity ratio, LPSCO may be over-earning. The return on equity and rate of return on rate base adopted in a settlement agreement and by Decision No. 65436 in LPSCO's last rate case were 9.5 percent and 8.5 percent, respectively. The most recent annual report filed by LPSCO at the Commission indicates an earned return on equity of 11.51 percent and an estimated return on rate base of 11.47. The possibility of over-earning along with the possible cost savings achieved through the 2003 acquisition of LPSCO by Algonquin, leads Staff to recommend that the

Commission order LPSCO to file a rate case. In addition, Staff believes that LPSCO's equity ratio should be improved by retaining at least 25 percent of its earnings when its capital structure reflects less than 30 percent equity.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Staff concludes that the existing 4.1 MGD WWTP capacity, along with the planned capacity expansion to 8.2 MGD, is sufficient to serve the existing and proposed CC&N extension areas. Staff also concludes that the proposed plant facilities and their cost estimates totaling \$5,492,980 are reasonable. However, no "used and useful" determinations of the proposed plant items were made and no particular treatment should be inferred for rate making or rate base purposes.

Staff also concludes that the funds advanced by the developers as Development Shares ultimately will be used by LPSCO as a cost free form of capital to fund construction. Staff also concludes that both the water and wastewater divisions of LPSCO are capitalized with fairly high levels of Advances in Aid of Construction and Contributions in Aid of Construction and that over-reliance on such cost-free capital can produce risky a capital structure and result in a utility with little or no investment upon which to earn a return and sustain its growth and viability.

Finally, Staff concludes that LPSCO is a fit and proper entity to provide service in the proposed extension area and that it is in the public interest for the Commission to approve this application and adopt certain requirements of the Company.

Staff recommends that the Commission require LPSCO to file the following as compliance items in this docket and by the recommended date:

1. A copy of the Franchise for the proposed service territory within 365 days of the date of the decision in this case.
2. The Master Utility Agreement as amended to reflect the smaller requested area within 365 days of the date of the decision in this case.
3. Copies of the required APP and Section 208 Plan amendments within 365 days of the date of the decision in this case.
4. By December 31, 2006, file a rate case using a test year ending June 30, 2006.
5. File a plan to increase the Company's consolidated equity to 40 percent of the total capital.

Staff also recommends that the Commission determine, and LPSCO agrees, that all net Additional Paid-in-Capital paid by Algonquin to LPSCO related to the MUA should be treated as if it were AIAC for ratemaking purposes.

Staff further recommends that the Company be ordered to charge its existing rates and charges to customers in the extension area until such time as the Commission changes those rates.

Finally, Staff recommends that the Company be prohibited from distributing more than 25 percent of each year's earnings if and when equity falls below 30 percent of total capital.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Linda Jaress
Executive Consultant III
Utilities Division

FROM: Barb Wells *BW*
Information Technology Specialist
Utilities Division

THRU: Del Smith *DS*
Engineering Supervisor
Utilities Division

DATE: September 13, 2005

RE: **LITCHFIELD PARK SERVICE COMPANY (DOCKET NO. SW-01428A-05-0022)**
AMENDED LEGAL DESCRIPTION

The area requested by Litchfield Park for an extension has been plotted with no complications using an amended legal description, which has been docketed. The original amendment was filed on September 2, 2005, but inadvertently omitted the description for referenced Parcel A. The description for Parcel A was filed on September 9, 2005. The legal description attached includes both of these descriptions and should be used in place of the original description submitted with the application.

Also attached are copies of the maps for your files.

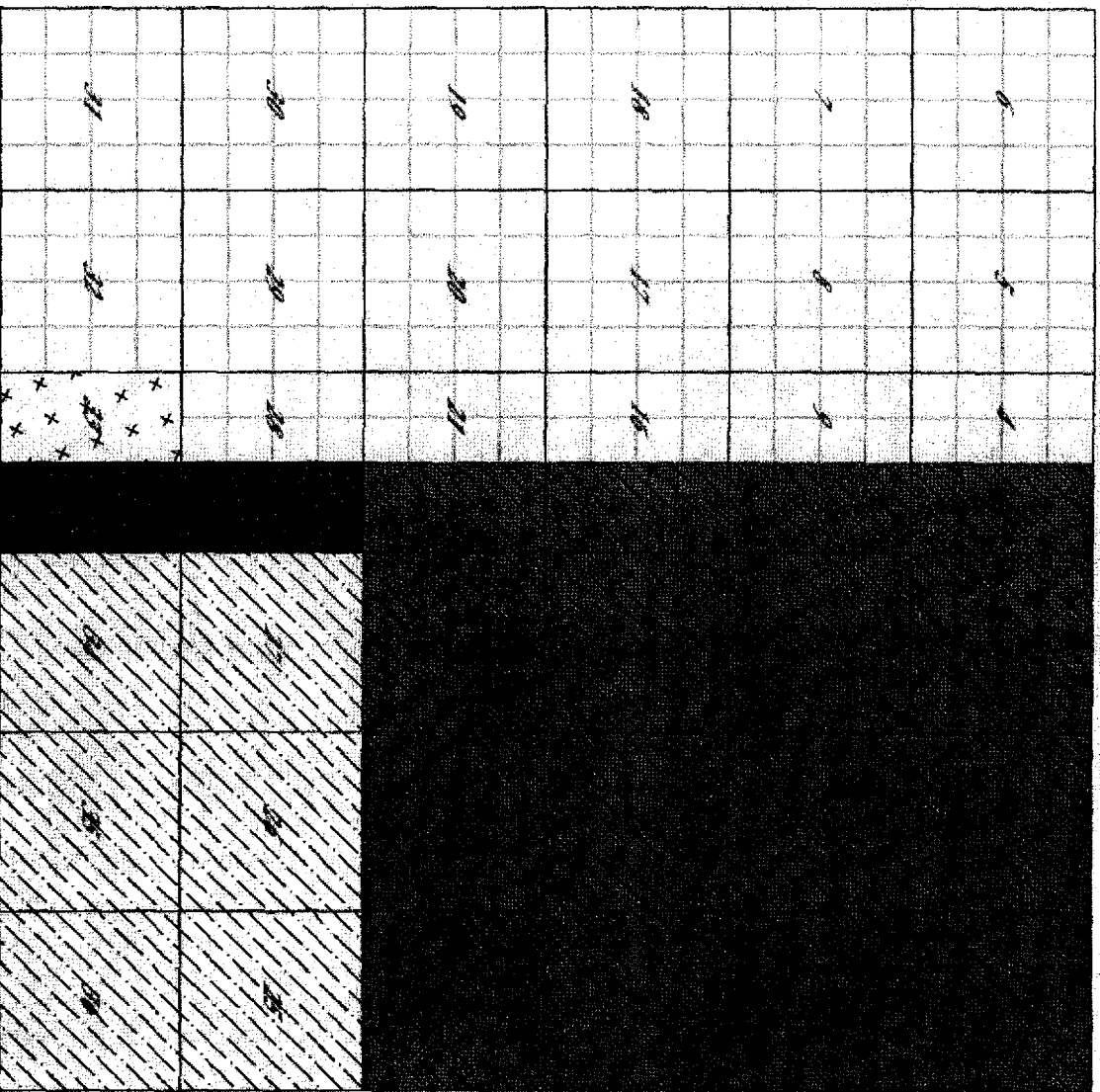
:bsw

Attachments

cc: Docket Control
Mr. Richard Sallquist
Ms. Deb Person (Hand Carried)
File

COUNTY of Maricopa

RANGE 2 West



TOWNSHIP 3 North



WS-1303 (14)

Arizona-American Water Company (Agua Fria)



W-2451 (5)

Water Utility of Greater Buckeye, Inc.



(4)

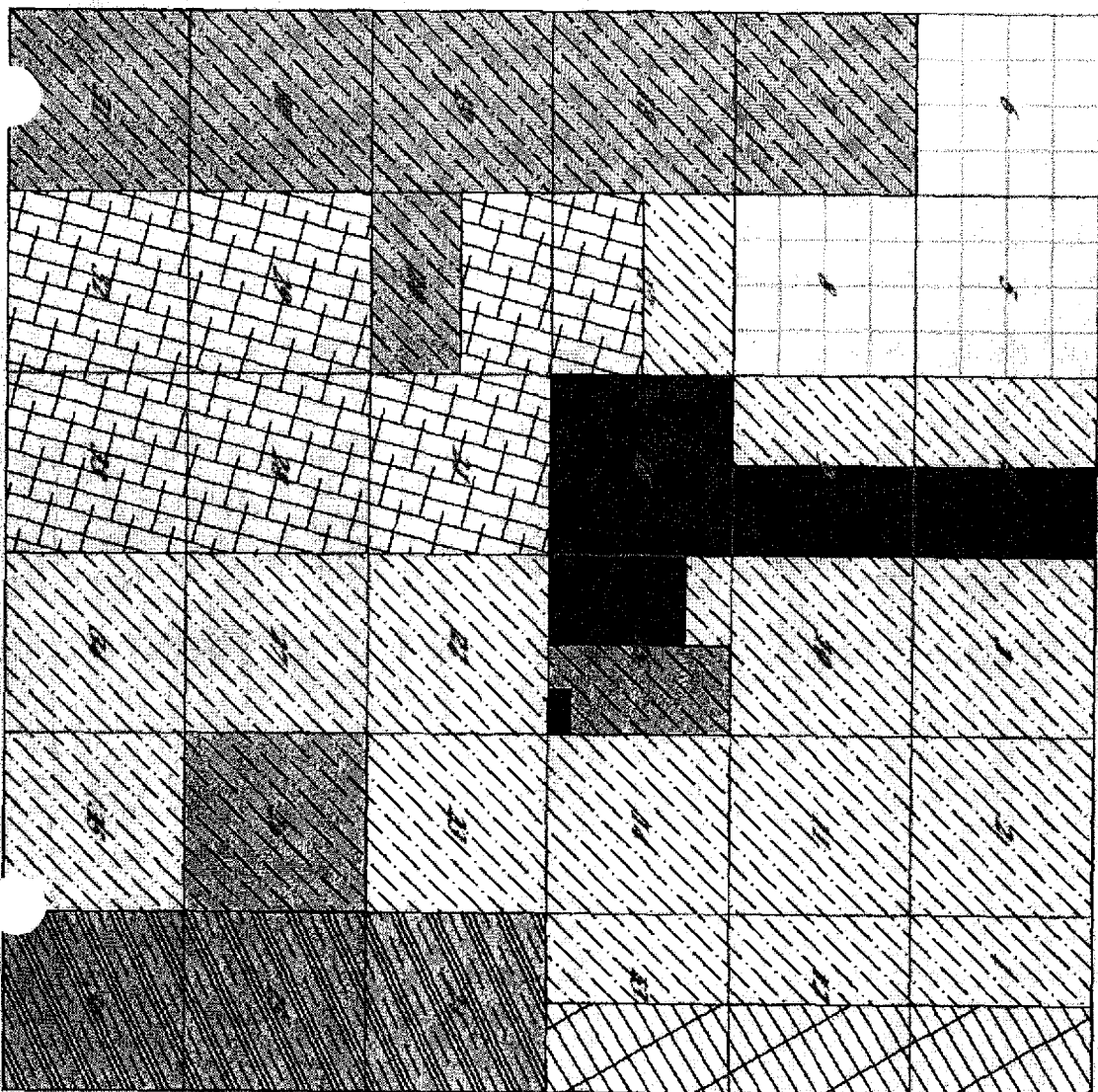
City of Surprise (Nonjurisdictional)



Litchfield Park Service Company
Docket No. SW-01428A-05-0072
Application for Extension for Sewer

COUNTY: Maricopa

RANGE 2 West



TOWNSHIP 2 North

Map No. 18



W-1997 (2)

Adman Mutual Water Company



WS-1303 (14)

Arizona-American Water Company (Agua Fria)



Sewer



W-1445 (3)

Arizona Water Company (White Tanks)



W-1427 (4)

Litchfield Park Service Company



SW-1428 (4)

Litchfield Park Service Company



Litchfield Park Service Company
Docket No. SW-01428A-05-0022
Application for Extension for Sewer

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

- All of Section 16; and
- The East one-half of Section 4; and
- The East one-half of Section 9; and
- All of Section 15, except the North one-half of the Northwest one-quarter and except Parcel A attached hereto,
all in Township 2 North, Range 2 West, G&SRB&M, Maricopa County, Arizona.

AND

- The East one-half of Section 28; and
- The East one-half of Section 33,
all in Township 3 North, Range 2 West, G&SRB&M, Maricopa County, Arizona

A portion of the East half of Section 15, Township 2 North, Range 2 West of the Gila and Salt River Base and Meridian, in Maricopa County, Arizona described as follows:

Beginning at the Northeast Corner of said Section 15, being the True Point of Beginning, thence South $00^{\circ}05'58''$ West a distance of 2641.35 feet to the East Quarter Corner of said Section 15. Continuing South $00^{\circ}06'14''$ West a distance of 1981.15 feet; thence South $89^{\circ}58'17''$ West a distance of 1316.21'; thence South $00^{\circ}08'04''$ West a distance of 660.11 feet; thence South $89^{\circ}59'00''$ West a distance of 1316.55' to the South Quarter Corner of said Section 15. Thence leaving the South Quarter Corner of said Section 15 North $00^{\circ}09'53''$ East a distance of 2639.38 feet to the Center Quarter Corner of said Section 15. Continuing North $00^{\circ}09'57''$ East a distance of 2639.42 feet to the North Quarter Corner of said Section 15. Leaving the North Quarter Corner of said Section 15 heading North $89^{\circ}53'38''$ East a distance of 2627.29 feet returning to the Northeast Corner of said Section 15 and the True Point of Beginning.


Above described parcel contains 298.91 acres more or less.

PARCEL A

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 20, 2005

TO: Linda Jaress
Executive Consultant III

FROM: Marlin Scott, Jr. 
Utilities Engineer

RE: Litchfield Park Service Company – Wastewater Division
Docket No. SW-01428A-05-0022 (CC&N Extension)

Introduction

Litchfield Park Service Company – Wastewater Division ("LPSCo") has applied to extend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity ("CC&N") for its wastewater system. The requested areas will add approximately 3.4 square-miles to LPSCo's existing 20.0 square-miles of certificated area. LPSCo serves the City of Litchfield Park, City of Goodyear and the surrounding area in the West Valley, Maricopa County.

Capacity**Existing Utility Plant**

According to LPSCo's 2004 Annual Report, LPSCo has a 4.1 million gallon per day ("MGD") activated sludge wastewater treatment plant ("WWTP"), three lift stations and 255.8 miles of force/collection mains serving 11,817 service laterals. Based on historical growth rates, it is anticipated that the existing service area could grow to approximately 19,000 laterals at the end of five years. LPSCo has predicted an additional 4,700 laterals for the proposed CC&N extensions at the end of five years, resulting in a projected total customer base of approximately 23,700 laterals at the end of five years. Based on the existing WWTP capacity, the system can serve approximately 12,550 service laterals.

Proposed Plant Facilities

LPSCo is proposing to extend its wastewater system into the requested areas by extension of its collection system using advances in aid of construction. The proposed plant facilities and their associated costs are:

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------------|-------------|
| 1. | Off-Site Plant Facilities: | |
| | a. The Interconnection Line | \$4,903,300 |
| | b. Sarival Lift Station | \$ 589,680 |
| | | ----- |
| | | \$5,492,980 |

LPSCo is proposing to fund these Off-Site Plant Facilities by using a "Developer Cost Allocation" as submitted in a Master Utility Agreement.

2. On-Site Plant Facilities – LPSCo will be using line extension agreements to fund these On-Site Plant Facilities once negotiations are completed.

Conceptual Plan

United Engineering Group prepared a study, dated July 14, 2004, entitled "White Tank Mountain Regional Sewer Solution – Conceptual Plan" for LPSCo. This study addressed the technical and engineering aspects of the proposed developments for regional planning purposes.

LPSCo's proposed wastewater system falls within three designated 208 regional planning areas. LPSCo will be seeking approval to amend the three 208 plans, permitting LPSCo to serve the proposed extension areas. LPSCo is also currently preparing an Aquifer Protection Permit ("APP") amendment for the expansion of its WWTP from 4.1 to 8.2 MGD.

Conclusion

Staff concludes that the existing 4.1 MGD WWTP capacity, along with the planned capacity expansion to 8.2 MGD, is sufficient to serve the existing and proposed CC&N extension areas.

Staff concludes that the proposed plant facilities and their cost estimates totaling \$5,492,980 are reasonable. However, no "used and useful" determinations of the proposed plant items were made and no particular treatment should be inferred for rate making or rate base purposes.

Arizona Department of Environmental Quality ("ADEQ") Compliance

Compliance Status

ADEQ and Maricopa County Environmental Services Department ("MCESD") regulate the wastewater system under Inventory #100310 and have indicated the facility is in compliance with ADEQ regulations.

Certificate of Approval to Construct

The MCESD Certificate of Approval to Construct ("ATC") for facilities needed to serve the requested areas have not been submitted by LPSCo. Staff recommends that LPSCo be required to file with Docket Control, as a compliance item in this docket, a copy of the ATC for facilities needed to service each of the parcels within the requested areas within one year of the effective date of an order in this proceeding.

Aquifer Protection Permit and Section 208 Plan Amendment

LPSCo was issued a signed APP, dated October 11, 2001, for its 4.1 MGD WWTP and is in the process of preparing an amendment for expansion of its WWTP from 4.1 to 8.2 MGD. Since an APP and the Section 208 Plan amendments represent fundamental authority for the designation of a wastewater service area and a wastewater provider, Staff recommends that LPSCo file with Docket Control, as compliance items in this docket, copies of the APP and Section 208 Plan amendments within one year after a decision is issued in this proceeding.

Arizona Corporation Commission Compliance

A check with the Utilities Division Compliance Section showed no outstanding compliance issues for LPSCo.

Summary

Conclusions

- A. Staff concludes that the existing 4.1 MGD WWTP capacity, along with the planned capacity expansion to 8.2 MGD, is sufficient to serve the existing and proposed CC&N extension areas.
- B. Staff concludes that the proposed plant facilities and their cost estimates totaling \$5,492,980 are reasonable. However, no "used and useful" determinations of the proposed plant items were made and no particular treatment should be inferred for rate making or rate base purposes.
- C. ADEQ and MCESD regulate the wastewater system under Inventory #100310 and have indicated the facility is in compliance with ADEQ regulations.
- D. A check with the Utilities Division Compliance Section showed no outstanding compliance issues for LPSCo.

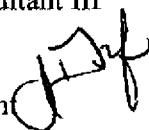
Recommendations

1. Staff recommends that LPSCo be required to file with Docket Control, as a compliance item in this docket, a copy of the ATC for facilities needed to service each of the parcels within the requested areas within one year of the effective date of an order in this proceeding.
2. Staff recommends that LPSCo file with Docket Control, as compliance items in this docket, copies of the required APP and Section 208 Plan amendments within one year after a decision is issued in this proceeding.

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 9, 2006

TO: Linda Jaress
Executive Consultant III

FROM: James J. Dorf 
Chief Accountant

RE: Litchfield Park Service Company – Wastewater Division
Docket No. SW-01428A-05-0022 (CC&N Extension)

Introduction

Litchfield Park Service Company – Wastewater Division (“LPSCo” or “Company”) has applied to extend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (“CC&N”) for its wastewater system. The requested areas will add approximately 3.4 square-miles to LPSCo’s existing 20.0 square-miles of certificated area. LPSCo serves the City of Litchfield Park, City of Goodyear and the surrounding area in the West Valley, Maricopa County. LPSCo is proposing to use its existing rate and charges for the new CC&N.

Financial Overview

The Company’s current rates were set in December 2002 in Decision No. 65436. The settlement agreement in that Decision adopted a cost of equity of 9.5 percent and an overall rate of return on 8.5 percent. At the time of that case, LPSCo served 5,541 water and 5,012 wastewater customers. By December 31, 2004, the number of customers had nearly doubled to 11,902 and 11,817, respectively.

In its application, the Company provided financial information for the year ended December 31, 2003. In addition to that information, Staff utilized the Company’s Annual Report for 2004 as filed with the Arizona Corporation Commission (“Commission”).

The Company’s consolidated (water and wastewater) net income was \$1.8 million for 2003 and \$2.1 million for 2004. The average return on equity for those same periods was 10.67 percent and 11.51 percent, respectively. See Schedule JJD-3. Staff also calculated a reasonable estimate of the consolidated return on rate base for the year 2004 of 11.47 percent.

The Company's capital structure is summarized on Schedule JJD-2 and indicates that, as of December 31, 2004, Common Equity was 33.9 percent of total capital, including refundable Advances in Aid of Construction ("AIAC"). If non-refundable Contributions in Aid of Construction ("CIAC") are added to the capital structure, the common equity percentage falls to 28.0 percent. Contributing to the imbalanced state of LPSCo's capital structure is its high dividend payout ratio which does not allow for the accumulation of equity.

The water and wastewater divisions are both capitalized with fairly high levels of AIAC and CIAC. Over-reliance on AIAC can produce risky a capital structure and result in a utility with little or no investment upon which to earn a return and sustain its growth and viability.

Based upon the estimated 2004 return on equity and the approximate return on rate base achieved, it is possible that the Company is exceeding its allowed rate of return. Given that the 2005 annual report is not yet available to determine the Company's more recent financial results, Staff concludes that LPSCo should be ordered to file a rate case by December 31, 2006 using a test year ending June 30, 2006. LPSCo recent acquisition by Algonquin Water Resources of America Inc. ("Algonquin") on February 5, 2003, also supports the appropriateness of filing a rate case.

Staff is concerned about the long term capital structure of the Company and will recommend the Company be prohibited from distributing more than 25 percent of each year's earnings if and when equity falls below 30 percent of total capital.

Proposed Developer Contributions

As indicated in the Master Utility Agreement ("MUA") three developers will subscribe for certain non-voting Class B Common Stock, \$1 par value ("Development Shares"), of Algonquin Water Resources of America Inc. Algonquin will then invest all proceeds in LPSCo as Additional Paid-In-Capital. See a diagram of the transaction at Schedule JJD-1. The funds (an estimated \$5,492,980) will be used for the construction of a treatment plant, transmission mains and a lift station. See related Staff Engineering Report for further details.

Other provisions of the MUA related to the Class B Stock issued by Algonquin are as follows:

- Annual Dividends – Algonquin will pay, once each year on March 31 "an amount equal to the pro-rata of the Development Shares subscriptions received by the Parent (Algonquin) from other developers associated with the cost of the excess capacity in the Interconnect Line, as that pro rata share is set forth on

Attachment E"¹. Thus, amounts received from other developers will be refunded to the current developers (up to the non-refundable amount).

- Development Shares Repurchase – Once the dividends have repaid the subscription, Algonquin may repurchase the Development Shares at 1/10 of one cent (\$0.001) per share.
- Restrictions – The shares cannot be sold, transferred, etc., without the written approval of Algonquin.

Staff Analysis

Although the complex form of the Development Shares (Class B Stock) purchase may look like a stock transaction (see Schedule JJD-1), the substance of the proposed transaction is, in essence, that of an advance in aid of construction. The funds advanced by the developers ultimately are used by LPSCo as a cost free form of capital to fund construction.

Staff generally agrees with the concept of developers funding a certain portion of speculative development with AIAC or similar transactions. However, the substance of the transaction must be recognized for rate making purposes for the protection of the parties. In this instance, the receipt of the additional paid in capital by LPSCo should be recognized as AIAC for ratemaking purposes and not as a component of LPSCo's capital structure.

Staff Recommendations

Staff recommends that LPSCo must agree to treat all net Additional Paid-in-Capital paid by Algonquin to LPSCo related to the MUA as if it were AIAC.

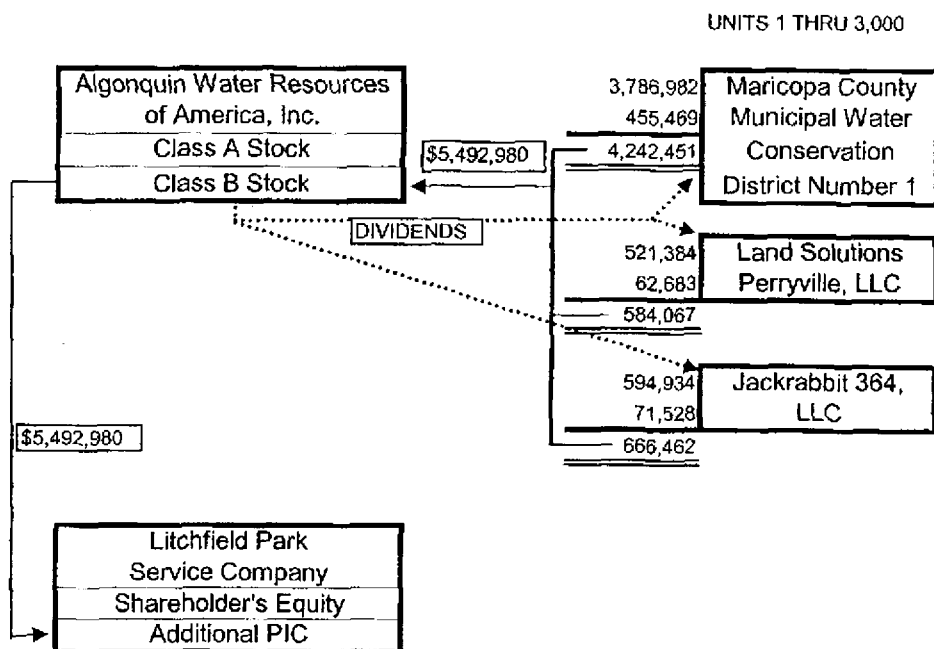
Staff further recommends that by December 31, 2006, LPSCo file a rate case using a test year ending June 30, 2006.

Staff further recommends that the Company charge its existing rates and charges as summarized in Attachment A.

Staff further recommends that the Company be prohibited from distributing more than 25 percent of each year's consolidated earnings if and when its consolidated equity falls below 30 percent of total capital.

¹ MUA at page 6.

TRANSACTION SUMMARY



FINANCIAL ANALYSIS - SECURITIZED

Selected Financial Data

	[A] 12/31/2003		[B] 12/31/2004		[C] PRO FORMA		[D] PRO FORMA
Current Portion of Long-term Debt	\$140,000	0.3%	\$195,000	0.3%	\$195,000	0.3%	\$195,000
Intercompany Notes Payable	\$4,055,000	8.6%	\$4,589,469	8.1%	\$4,589,469	6.6%	\$4,589,469
Third Party Loans	\$12,672,019		\$12,491,059	21.8%	\$12,491,059	18.0%	\$12,491,059
Advances in Aid of Construction	\$12,987,312	27.5%	\$20,507,510	35.9%	\$20,507,510	29.6%	\$20,507,510
Contributions in Aid of Construction					\$12,116,978	17.5%	\$12,116,978
Additional Paid in Capital							\$5,492,980
Common Equity	\$17,321,643	36.7%	\$19,412,068	33.9%	\$19,412,068	28.0%	\$19,412,068
Total Capital	\$47,175,974	100.0%	\$57,195,106	100.0%	\$69,312,084	100.0%	\$74,805,064

[A] Company Annual Report
[B] Company Annual Report
[C] Includes Contributions in Aid of Construction
[D] Includes Additional Paid in Capital

	<u>2004</u>	<u>2003</u>
WATER		
Revenues	5,087,196	4,131,794
Operating Expenses	<u>(3,804,219)</u>	<u>(2,835,281)</u>
Operating Income	<u>1,282,977</u>	<u>1,296,513</u>
SEWER		
Operating Revenue	4,833,236	4,050,298
Operating Expenses	<u>(3,123,486)</u>	<u>(2,654,516)</u>
Operating Income	<u>1,709,750</u>	<u>1,395,782</u>
Consolidated Operating Income	<u>2,992,727</u>	<u>2,692,295</u>
Non-oper. Income (Expense)		
Interest Income (expense)	150,090	38,144
Interest Expense	<u>(1,042,392)</u>	<u>(894,664)</u>
Total Non-Oper Inc.	<u>(892,302)</u>	<u>(856,520)</u>
Net Income	<u>2,100,425</u>	<u>1,835,775</u>
Return on Average Equity		
Beginning Equity	17,088,590	17,324,401
Ending Equity	19,412,068	17,088,589
Average	18,250,329	17,206,495
Consolidated ROE	11.51%	10.67%
Estimated Rate Base		
	<u>Total</u>	
Net Plant	60,760,688	
Customer Deposits	<u>(2,045,395)</u>	
AIAC	<u>(20,507,510)</u>	
CIAC*	<u>(12,116,978)</u>	
Approximate RATE BASE	<u>26,090,805</u>	
Operating Income/Rate Base	<u>11.47%</u>	
Cash & Short-term Investments	<u>1,841,557</u>	

* Net of Amortization

ATTACHMENT A

NOTES ON CURRENT AND COMPANY PROPOSED RATES:

Cost - All meters over 2-inch shall be installed at cost.

* Per Commission Rules (R14-2-403.B)

** Months off system times minimum (R14-2-403.D)

*** Per Commission Rules (R14-2-403.D)

RATE DESIGN
WASTEWATER DIVISION

	<u>Current Rates</u>	<u>Company Proposed</u>	<u>Settlement Rates</u>
<u>MONTHLY USAGE CHARGE:</u>			
Monthly Residential Service	\$23.20	\$32.55	\$27.20
Multi-Unit Housing - Monthly Per Unit	21.70	25.00	25.25
Commercial:			
Small Commercial - Monthly Service	\$38.30	\$60.00	\$46.00
Measured Service:			
Regular Domestic:			
Monthly Service Charge	\$17.50	\$25.75	\$25.75
Rate Per 1,000 Gallons of Water	1.80	2.75	2.25
Restaurant, Motels, Grocery Stores & Dry Cleaning Establishments: (1)			
Monthly Service Charge	\$17.50	\$25.75	\$25.75
Rate Per 1,000 Gallons of Water	2.00	3.25	3.00
Wigwam Resort:			
Monthly Rate - Per Room	\$21.70	\$25.00	\$25.25
Main Hotel Facilities - Per Month	625.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Schools - Monthly Service Rates:			
Elementary Schools	\$550.00	\$725.00	\$680.00
Middle Schools	550.00	1,000.00	800.00
High Schools	550.00	1,000.00	800.00
Community College	550.00	1,600.00	1,240.00
Effluent (2)	\$52.50	\$52.50	Market Rate

NOTES:

(1) Motels without restaurants charged multi-unit MONTHLY rate of \$25.25 per room.

(2) Maximum effluent rate shall not exceed \$430 per acre-foot based on a potable water rate of \$1.32 per thousand gallons.

65436